Full-service lab offers 'state-of-the-art' testing

A new full-service laboratory offering "state-of-the-art research and recommendations" has opened under President David Doherty and longtime K.W. Brown turf services director Chuck Dixon.

International Sports Turf Research Center, Inc. is located in Olathe, Kansas, near the headquarters of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Dixon, who ran operations at K.W. Brown in College Station, Texas, is the vice president of technical operations and has major plans for ISTRC.

"There's a lot of work out there to do," he said. "There are a lot of golf courses with environmental concerns but with only $2,000 in their budget for lab work. I think people will have to pay for it or shut down." ISTRC's first goal is establishing its physical testing lab.

"That's our baseline," Dixon said. "We're building that portion of our service first. I'll farm out the chemical and pesticide testing for now. "We can do the NPK and lime testing in-house, get two-day turnaround on fertility work-up, have ground water testing done outside. But I hope to have all that testing done in-house sometime next year.

ISTRC's board of technical advisors includes Dr. James Beard of Texas A&M, retired University of Rhode Island Professor Richard Skogley, The Toro Co. Vice President James Watson and others.

The families are actively involved in daily operations of Pine Forest.